THE

SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1994 – 99

THE SENATE

Wednesday, December 7, 1994

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on Wednesday, December 7, 1994, at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator F. W. GOLLOP, (President)
His Honour Senator C. L. BOLDEN, (Deputy President)
Senator the Honourable R. R. FARLEY (Minister of Industry, Commerce and Business Development) (Leader of the Senate)
Senator the Honourable P. C. GODDARD (Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and International Business)
Senator the Honourable G. S. H. MURRAY (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office)
Senator Miss C. Y. FORDE
Senator T. E. BARKER (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)
Senator Miss O. P. SYMMONDS
Senator D. T. GILL
Senator Miss J. C. ODLE
Senator N. A. LYNCH
Senator N. P. WELCH
Senator J. A. WORKMAN
Senator Mrs. P. E. RICKINSON
Senator P. S. BERNSTEIN
Senator C. LeR. TROTMAN
Senator the Venerable Archdeacon J. L. SPRINGER, G.C.M.
Senator C. K. LAURIE
Senator Mrs. V. J. DAVIS
Senator Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON
Senator C. A. MASCOLL.

Prayers were led by Rev. Errington Massiah.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I am commanded to lay before the Honourable Senate the following documents:

Report on the Operations of the Sugar Workers' Provident Fund for the period January to December, 1993;

Report on the Operations of the Severance Payments Scheme for the period January to December, 1993;

The Sugar Workers' Provident Fund Order, 1994;

The Annual Reports and Statements of Accounts of the Barbados National Bank for the years 1992 and 1993;

Report from the Audit of the Accounts of the National Insurance Fund for the year ended December 31, 1991;

Report of the Fire Service for the calendar years 1991 and 1992;

Annual Report of the Immigration Passport Department for the year ended December 31, 1991.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

INTRODUCTION

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I would like o introduce the following

measures which were dealt with in the House of Assembly yesterday. The measures are:

Resolution to approve the borrowing of US$859 948 from IBM World Trade Corporation for the purchase, installation and maintenance of computers for the Police Department;

A Resolution to approve the vesting in the Barbados National Bank of land at James Street Bridgetown;

A Resolution to approve the vesting in the National Housing Corporation of land at Clarke's Road, near Hothersal Turning, Saint Michael, for housing purposes;

A Resolution to approve the vesting in Vivian Mayers of land at Tweedside Road, St. Michael;

A Resolution to approve the guarantee by the Minister responsible for Finance of the payment of the principal and interest necessary for the redemption of the bonds issued by the Barbados Agricultural Management Co. Ltd. for the purpose of financing the sugar industry.

I propose, Sir, that these matters be dealt with today.

ORDER NO. 1 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BORROWING OF US$859 948

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the approval of this Chamber is being sought for the acquisition of a loan of US$859 948. The loan is to be obtained by IBM World Trade Corporation for the express purpose of purchase, installation and maintenance of computers for the Police Department.

As you are aware, Sir, the level of crime and criminal activity over the years has increased over the years, both in terms of the sophistication as well as the quantity. Unfortunately, the capacity of the law enforcement agencies to combat this scourge in our society has not grown in direct relation to the level of the increase in crime.

We are seeking by way of this Resolution to enable the police to improve their fighting chances in this battle. The computerisation of the Police Force has been long recognised as a necessary and important step. It has been recognised that not only in the Police Force but in all areas of activity that the capacity to manage information effectively is perhaps the most important competitive weapon which one can have in one's arsenal.

To draw an example, Sir, without of course preempting the contributions of the eminent attorneys who practise at the Bar, we have a situation where the Force is unable to adequately manage this intelligence information on persons who are known to the Force, management of fingerprinting, basic checks which any Police Force in a modern era should be able to do are really not humanly possible because of the dependence on traditional storage methods built around massive systems of filing based on storage of paper records.
11.25 a.m.

In short, Sir, what we are seeking to do is to enable the Force to effectively manage its information on current activities, to be able to establish trends based on the historical records of various activities and basically to be able to enable us to have a safer society in which to operate.

I must provide you with some details, Sir, with respect to the loan. The loan is to be acquired under the authority of the Special Loans Act, Cap. 125. The terms of the loan in summary are, the amount is to be US $859 948. The loan will be disbursed over a period of three years commencing at the date of installation or we otherwise determine effective date of purchase. The tranches under which the loan will be disbursed will be in year 1 – US $466 401, in year 2, again US $278 045, and in year 3 – US $115 502.

The amortisation – each tranche will be repayable on a monthly basis over a period of three years commencing one month after the effective date of purchase or the date of installation. The interest on the loan will be 6% per annum on a reducing balance method. The disbursement is meant to coincide with the procedure which is proposed to be used for the implementation of the project. You would recognise, Sir, that a project of this nature is a very large one and because also of the urgency of the matter, the critical areas of the Force with respect to the Force's operation would have to be implemented first. It is proposed that the implementation phases would be in three separate phases over a period of three years.

Sir, the whole business of the introduction of information technology to facilitate Government's operation and to ensure good and effective governance is one which you will hear quite a bit about not just in this debate, but in subsequent debates.

At this point it just remains for me to ask that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR THE HON. P. C. GODDARD: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution and to compliment the Attorney General for moving so swiftly to bring this project to fruition. It has had a long gestation period somewhat in excess of four years. It just needed decisive action and will to bring it forward to the implementation phase.

This is a critical part of Government's programme to modernise the society and to introduce the systems of information technology to the business of Government and to improve the infrastructure of information technology systems in the country. The benefits that will accrue from this are truly staggering and I will just give a few examples. It currently takes anywhere from four to six weeks to get an accurate fingerprint match using a manual system. With the use of computers this can be done in a matter of two to three hours.

The information available to police stations is limited particularly during the hours of darkness and during the weekends when the Central Registry is closed. All of the information will be on line and available to each police station so that when a crime is committed the police can key in the *modus operandi* of the crime, match it rapidly and come up with a list of suspects that they can react to within a half an hour of analysing the crime situation. This means that there will be rapid response to criminal activity.

It also means that Barbados will be on line with international police organisations such as Interpol and with those countries who have already implemented similar computer systems in the Caribbean. We must recognise that criminal activity is not necessarily a localized activity, particularly in the area of narcotics trafficking. As we link our several Caribbean countries together, the business of law enforcement will become much more efficient and effective. This will move a long way towards combatting the scourge of illegal narcotic trafficking in our country and the countries of the region.

This system will free up the very valuable human resources that we have in the Police Department from the tedious and tedium of mundane paper work, of tracking a paper trail in files that are scattered all over the place, misfiled and hard to find. It now means that individuals will be freed up for true police activity and for interacting with the community which really is the bedrock of policing our society. This will allow them to get involved in social programmes, in areas of youth development relating to young people in the community and doing the sorts of things that will improve the quality of life in Barbados.

This system will be compatible with the Immigration system which is currently installed and ready to go very shortly. This means too that we will be able to track on line the movement of people in and out of Barbados very quickly and we should not see a repeat of movements of people like Mr. Mathieson who managed to get away from the country leaving a lot of people here holding the bag.

It is a very important part of the business of this Government to implement information technology strategy not only for Government but to put the infrastructure in place for the business community and the private citizen to take advantage of the tools and the knowledge that is available in the global community. This will enable them to enrich their lives, be more productive in their businesses, widen their market perspectives and develop opportunities that will only be limited by the creativity of their minds. This is a very important installation for Barbados and, once again, I should like to congratulate the Attorney-General for his swiftness in bringing this to Parliament and I trust that the implementation will be smooth. I am sure that members of the Force will greatly appreciate the investment that we are making to make their jobs easier and to make Barbados a much more secure place to live in.
11.35 a.m.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill. I am totally in agreement with the two previous speakers that the time has come for this kind of modernization of the Police Force.

I should like to know why it is going to IBM World Trade Corporation. I am not sure that nowadays IBM is considered to be so much above the rest of the competition and I just wanted to be sure that this was subject to some tender process. I do not know if these people are specialized in this area but since we are going to spend $1.7 million, it sounds to me that we should know something more about whether or not this bid went through the tendering process and how they arrived at IBM when awarding the contract.

I would hope that this computerization would follow down the line and it would go to the courts because having a police system that is computerized and in no court system that is computerized, that we are still going to have this terrible frustration of justice where going through the courts takes a long time.

There are things that concern me as well in terms of the satellite operations to the police like the Ministry of Defence and Security. It has been my recent knowledge that the Board of Defence and Security has not met to register security guards since June of this year. and that, as a result, we have a situation where security guards are actually working and are not licensed even though the application is in.

The Act makes it very clear that the person should be licensed. The Ministry of Defence and Security has said that the guard may work once the application is in. But unfortunately these thing should not be done in that way. The person should be fully licensed before working.

I take great pleasure in congratulating the Government in moving in this area.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Springer.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, I too should like to support the Resolution and I should like to compliment the Ministry of the Attorney-General on moving quickly on this particular matter.

The previous speakers highlighted the benefits of the new system. I might sum up under the heads of efficiency and precision, time saving and, all in all, a more effective law enforcement sector in this country. I would add to all of that the fact that a police officer who is computer oriented is likely, I think to be a more organized kind of person. That in itself is a plus.

But I should like to issue a couple of warnings. The first is that we need to beware of creating an inferior policeman or policewoman. I know of certain sectors in this country where they have become computerized and there have been some people on staff who have not been able to take the plunge to become computer literate and who are really afraid of the technology. I hope that steps are taken to ensure that this is not the case as far as the police are concerned, that we would not have two types of police officers, those who can cope with it and those who cannot and therefore feel inferior.

The other warning I would wish to issue is that of – and I would seek some response from the Honourable Leader of the Senate on this one – whether or not the introduction of this system will mean some redundancy in the Police Force. It would be a terrible pity, in this day and age when we are thinking of the need to employ people, if we bring in systems which are going to send police officers home. I shall await the kind of response there will be to this.

Sir, Senator Laurie spoke of the seeping down into the courts of the system. I support him on this view. Some 20 years ago I entered the courts to give evidence in a particular case and I was amazed at how long that particular case went on and the many times the proceedings had to stop as the recording was done in longhand and the magistrate was writing it all. I think we need to get past that. In fact, I went back into the court for another reason, not very long ago, to find that the system had not changed.

I should hope that since this is related to law enforcement, the courts that is, something will soon be done by the Attorney-General's Ministry to see to it that we bring electronic technology into the courts. The entire legal system will be enhanced by this development.

I support the Resolution, Sir.

SENATOR P. S. BERNSTEIN: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution. One point seven million Barbados dollars is a lot of money but, certainly, the Police Force needs to be expanded as I have been hearing and they need to be complimented for the limited amount of resources both in technology and in manpower.

I hope that the various police stations would now have fax machines. I have been calling for that for some time now. A simple thing like a fax machine will enhance communication from one station to the other. But up to last year, they did not have.

I also want to commend the Task Force for the excellent job that they have been doing. They have been particularly prominent around Bridgetown at Christmas last year and they have certainly done an excellent job. Their mere presence deters a lot of criminal activity.

But for some reason there was a little outcry on the Task Force and then suddenly they are not around. For some reason, we do not know where they are. I hope that they would be back in Bridgetown particularly this month when we have all the Christmas activity. Having given the Police Force some credit and commended them on all the various things that they are doing, despite the limited resources, there is still room for a lot of improvement.

As you know, Mr. President, there is a marketplace in Bridgetown and particularly in Swan Street. Swan Street is a very narrow street. It is packed with vendors and they have all types of problems especially on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. I think that we all agree that this is a temporary arrangement and that something will be done in the future.

Aside.

SENATOR P. S. BERNSTEIN: Cabinet, as far as I understand, said that it was temporary and we hope that it is not temporary 8 years like the last Government has done but will be temporary maybe one year with this Government. However, I do not want to stray from what I want to say.

The point is the roads are clearly marked for vendors who are supposed to be there. We have a situation where other vendors who are not supposed to be there will actually come on the pavements.
11.45 a.m.

And you will find a senior police officer, a Sergeant, a Crown Sergeant or someone will come there and move these people and within 10 or 15 minutes after they have gone they are back. Many of the young constables do not seem to know what their job is. They go out there and as long as people are not rioting they are quite happy but they should be aware of what they have to do and unless

they are told on that particular day that they have to move these people they do not do it. When they are told to do it and they do it you will find 3 or 4 days later there is a shift and the new shift does not know that they have to be moved so there seems to be some lack of communication and some lack of training where this is concerned. It is either that they are ignorant of the law or they turn a blind eye. If they are turning a blind eye then that is a sorry state for our country, because as you are aware, a blind eye was turned to mini-buses and the ZR vans in the early stages and today you can see the problems that we have facing our country with these ZR vans. So I am suggesting that we nip it in the bud and train these young constables so they will be aware of what they have to do.

Now the task force apart, it appears as though some of these young constables are afraid.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bernstein I think what you are saying, while it might have some merit, you are straying from the point of purchase, installation and maintenance of computers. I would like you to stick to the Resolution.

SENATOR P. S. BERNSTEIN: Thank you, but it is also related to the police force and the computers are for the police and you are updating the police and I thought it would be okay. You direct me, Sir.

Sir, I would just like to sum it all up by saying that the police force needs to be trained in self-defence. I read this week in the media that there was a situation where the courts, and I think it was raised in the Lower House yesterday, where the Prosecution is taking some time to put their act together in order to prosecute and I read this week that a case was thrown out. Again I think we are sending the wrong message and we have to be more efficient and we have to make sure that double standards are not creeping into the judiciary. When I say the judiciary I mean that some cases are being heard and some cases are being thrown out for lack of prosecution and that sort of thing.

Finally, I have always advocated that the defence force is perhaps a little too large and maybe some of the people within the defence force can strengthen the police force and make it more efficient for our young nation. Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: Mr. President, I too would like to join in congratulating the Police Department for having taken a small step towards closer proximity to the twenty-first century and the coming millennium. I would also like to congratulate the Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs for bringing to fruition this long overdue step which had been advocated for quite some time by a number of people, but never saw the light of day for various reasons.

Before I go any further, I thought I would like to allay a couple of fears mentioned by some of the previous speakers. Senator Bernstein spoke about cases being abandoned or thrown out for various reasons, but I think if he becomes a little bit more familiar with Choice for Change, the social contract, he will see that that very same issue was addressed on page 36 of our 1994 Manifesto where it says, "justice delayed is justice denied. The court system must function more cheaply, more efficiently and more speedily. Judicial officers must be better paid and provided with courts and offices that are comfortably equipped with modern technology. We will take full account of the needs of the public attending court, etc." So that is all part of the reform process that is underway.

In addition, Senator Laurie spoke about security guards and the lack of registration. I read in the *Official Gazette* during last week where a new Board has been named and also I saw an ad in the newspaper advising people to renew their licences. I suspect that the fact that the Board had not met since about June last year has something to do with the grand state of inertia that had established itself as a way of life in the last administration and certainly from all indications will not be perpetuated by this new government. I am sure Senator Mascoll and his colleague would also agree with me on that.

In addition, there was mention also of lack of training for some of the people who, it might seem, have an almost inbred aversion to new technology. I am afraid I am part of that crowd too and therefore I can understand people not readily jumping in like my colleague on the left who has become a guru, as they say these days, in this area. But let me assure the Senator that a considerable part of the sum involved, which we are debating here today, will be used in the training of personnel.

If I would get back to a more substantial part of the issue, in addition to this partial computerisation of the Police Force, I look forward to the day when, through more progressive action, things like ...

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. G. S. H. MURRAY: I know in my day, and those who read the comics, at one time when computers seemed like the realm of Dick Tracy and what not, but I look forward to the day when patrol cars and motor bikes would be linked with the computer where they can do speedy and immediate checks on stolen vehicles, on personnel etc.

I must confess I have a little familiarity with this. When I lived in another country I worked with the

police, and while it was 20 years ago, this kind of facility made a great difference to the performance of the police by being able to use, not computers in those days, but data processing which speeded up the antiquated system which we now have, but it was not yet as advanced as what it is today. So therefore I see that this is a welcome step and something which should make a considerable difference both to the police operation and to the public in terms of the processing that is done today when they have to interface with the police.

But what is not known, Mr. President, is that a considerable role was played in the computerisation process, not only of the Police Department, but the Immigration Department, by a Department with which I am associated, namely the Data Processing Department. I consider the Data Processing Department to be one of the unsung heroes of the public service, people who have done a considerable amount of work in the past, in the background, but quite effectively as regard to things like pension cheques, national insurance and so on. I think I would like to commend them for their role in this regard and to also state that this computerisation that we are seeing here relates not only to the police force as Honourable Senators have mentioned, but also part of the Manifesto pledge of Public Sector Reform where other departments would be brought on stream for inter-linkage with the police, immigration, land tax, etc. to enhance the efficiency and speed with which the work of Government can serve the public.

Previous to this, Mr. President, the computerisation had been done on an *ad hoc* basis. But I would like to say that as part of the reform process we are on the verge of appointing someone to head an audit team which would do an analysis of all the Government Departments to determine what computer equipment they have, what they need, so that in future the more extensive computerisation of the public service at large would be done on a more systematic basis where the equipment would be more compatible with each other and it would not be the case any longer of individual departments going off and buying what they think they need or what they have been pressured into buying by fast talking salesmen, but that it would be done to redound to the overall benefit of the public service. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, as the Prime Minister recently said, there can be no fundamental changes to the way the economy is being managed. In fact this is just another example of that. There will be no fundamental changes to the way we are going to do business in Barbados.
11.55 a.m.

Just let me congratulate the Democratic Labour Party for having done the "donkey" work in this regard by going through the process of computerization of the Police Force. It was done by the Democratic Labour Party and we have now reached the stage where the final effort is being made as far as the negotiation of the loan is concerned. While I do not stand to benefit from the computerization of the Police Force, I can tell you that any such effort would have been humane or a very horrendous effort in terms of understanding the requirements of the Force and in terms of even going so far as to determine the kind of equipment that will be required that will suit the needs of the Police Department into the twenty-first century. In that regard and in fact Senator Laurie's concern about whether or not the computers are of the kind that would be compatible and flexible in the future is a very serious concern. But we cannot deny that the effort to put the computerization system in place is one, even though it may have been delayed for whatever purpose, positive step forward.

Also, I took note of Senator Murray's suggestion that the entire computerization in the Public Service is in train. But I also know that just before leaving office the Democratic Labour Party Government also got a loan to put that process fully in place for the future. That is important because of the whole question of productivity which has become a standard now for Barbados. It is important because there is no sense in which we can simply improve the productivity within the private sector and expect it to translate into any serious economic benefits for the country. I say that because, if we do not improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Public Service, then what has been happening is that because the Public Service takes more costs to do a similar project as is done in the private sector we will see as a result taxation methods or whatever that resources will be pulled away from the private sector and channelled to the public sector. If they are used less efficiently, then by extension the public sector will continue to grow and grow. Certainly, when we look to the future, that is not a desirable trend for us to have because the whole question of the management of the economy would have to revolve around how effectively are we doing things within the Public Service. From that standpoint again, I fully support this, not only because it was an initiative of the Democratic Labour Party but because we cannot fully proceed in this country without such initiatives being put in place.

As regards the structure of the loan, I was informed that it is because of the negotiating skills of the present administration that the interest rate is 6 per cent I think. I was not given full information on the interest cost but I think it is 6 per cent.

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Okay, small business expert. So it is 6 per cent which again is a useful thing. But then one wonders because of the nature of

the operation whether or not it is a simple loan of sorts. Because you are borrowing from an institution and purchasing the equipment from that same institution. So it seems to me like it is just a swap or a temporary delay of kinds. Is it not so, Senator Barker?

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Mascoll, please address the Chair. Please ignore the asides and proceed.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: I love asides. You know that by now, Mr. President. You must know that by now.

I was saying therefore that it is simply just a swap where you are taking a loan from an institution and then purchasing the equipment from that same institution. One is asking here for further information to be given as it relates to the tendering process, and why it is the institution might have been chosen, and what were the conditions that gave rise to the choice being made in support of IBM as opposed to any other computer company or facility. You admitted that you do not know anything about computers, Senator Murray. We all know that IBM has slipped in terms of its competitive edge against some of the other leading computer companies. From that standpoint, I never intended to be long on this issue because what this implies is really the observation of the Prime Minister that there will be no fundamental changes to the way business is being done in Barbados. It is very evident by certain measures...

Aside.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Come on, Senator Murray.

SENATOR N. A. LYNCH: Mr. President, on a point of order. Maybe it is necessary for someone who knows a little bit about computers to clear up in Senator Mascoll's mind to say that the problem with IBM is only because their personal computer market is what everyone else is scaling into. IBM still makes the best mainframe computers in the world.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order.

SENATOR C. A. MASCOLL: Senator Lynch knows a little about a lot of things and he demonstrates that very well. He knows a little about a lot of things. That is not a point of clarification.

Let me just say that of course I will support any such Bill. It will be silly not to support any such Bill, but the more important issue in this really is to improve the productivity within the Police Department and hopefully in the near future to improve the productivity within the wider Public Service. Because in the absence of that and, I repeat, there will be no progress made because you would be switching resources from one place and more importantly from an inefficient in the private sector towards an inefficient in the public sector.

I hear a lot of talk as regards productivity which is now becoming a big issue in Barbados. In fact, what is unfortunate about it is that it was the establishment of the National Productivity Council as far back as 1973 and the tripartite committee had already met in 1976 and then the elections came. Now the unfortunate thing about it is that the National Productivity Council was converted to a National Economic Council in such a way that it widened the mandate of that Council. In that context again, one is saying that we better not make those same kinds of errors again which we seem prepared to make in terms of the Foreign Exchange Committee to convert it into an Investment Council or something like that. Therefore, that means in terms of making decisions in relation to the Police Department in order to improve its productivity, we must have sound committees or infrastructure in which to do that. Until we can do that and do it effectively without necessarily changing systems for the sake of changing systems after admitting that fundamental changing can be made, we may go down the wrong path.
12.05 p.m.

I am saying that to say that if you admit to that, then in the same regard we have to hold on to these kinds of issues, respect that they were measures which were designed to improve the overall competitiveness of the Barbados economy, to improve the way business is being done, and that to simply change things for the sake of changing, if only because of name or whatever, is not going to get us very far.

I just send another word of warning, Sir, that it would not make sense to widen the mandate of any committee to look at issues that are really consequential, issues like investment, which it would not make sense to have a Minister of Investment. These are consequential issues and in that regard there are more fundamental issues that need to be addressed. We are saying that the issue of productivity within the Public Service, and particularly in this case within the Police Department, is an essential requirement for the future.

I thank you, Sir.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I sat through this debate and I listened to hear what the comments would be since the Leader of the Senate said he would hear more from those practising attorneys at the Bar.

I have first to congratulate the Government and more specifically I must congratulate the Minister for listening to the Police Force who over the last five or six years have been complaining daily that they had put together this project but the then administration refused to accept it. They always claimed they had no money, and nobody can doubt the fact that up to the last meeting of the Police Association which was attended by the last administration they clearly told the Police where to get off. "We have no more money, you get nothing else." So I cannot see how Senator Mascoll can come today and say that the donkey work was done by the DLP. It is a shameless statement and he should go back and check the record of his party and see why this country has reached the level it has reached, particularly in crime et cetera, and that level has escalated primarily because of the lack of understanding of the administration over the last eight years.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Like everything else in the campaign. Jobs came up in the campaign, 5-4-3 came up in the campaign and, apparently, as I understand it, the Honourable Senator is the person who invented the 5-4-3, so he wants to invent this now. The Honourable Senator invented the structural adjustment programme too and the people in St. James dealt with him sufficiently well for the structural adjustment programme and the 5-4-3 plan of employment. That should therefore put paid to the Honourable Senator.

The Honourable Senator speaks for the sake of speaking. He asked why should you be borrowing money from the same institution from which you are buying equipment. The Honourable Senator persists in jumping up and talking to gain the attention of the Press when he does not understand what he is talking about. The last time we had a Resolution in here he got up talking about insider trading when he did not even understand the company law and what was involved in the Act. Now he wants to know why we should be borrowing money from IBM. If the Honourable Senator knew anything about business in Bridgetown or anywhere around the world, he would have complimented the Government on their skills and ability to buy equipment and pay 6% on a reducing balance from the same company. If they had gone and taken it on hire purchase, hire purchase rates begin at 27% or 28% and it would have cost the Government more and it would not belong to the Government until they paid the last penny on it. The Honourable Senator must not try to confuse this Chamber about what he is talking about. I must compliment the Government and the negotiators for their brilliance in having acquired from IBM World Trade Corporation equipment at a 6% reducing balance, because by the time you pay the last the 6% is going to be worth little or nothing. That is what the Honourable Senator must understand.

But if he wants to give credit to the DLP, let us talk about that. Under the DLP, Senator Laurie will tell you, if you had something happening in the middle of St. George and you called the Police Force, Boarded Hall would tell you: "Thanks for the call, we have no transportation." If they had transportation, they would tell you: "We have no gas". Two days would go before the police got there.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: This Government has only been in power for less than three months, and if you were in power for eight years and you could not even provide garbage trucks, what do you expect? Do you believe there are magicians in the Barbados Labour Party Government? I believe it would be best to ignore the Honourable Senator, let him say what he feels like, because I know the people of Barbados are wise enough to judge the Senator by his sayings.

Mr. President, we have to look a little further into this whole affair, and the Honourable Senator must think carefully before he begins to speak. Let us look at it on the basis of the Senator saying that the DLP did all this work and all we had to do was to come in and negotiate the money. That is what they are saying. Mr. President, along with the computers must go several other factors to make it effective. First, we have to look at a scientific lab. The pathologist we have in Barbados comes to court and says: "Sir, we have not got the equipment, we cannot do the tests." The people from the other lab say the same thing.

So if they were so brilliant in crime and what they were doing to improve the Police Force, why have we not heard of the package which should go along with this for the scientific lab that is necessary? We have not heard that.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: I agree with you. You cannot even get furniture for the Police Station at Holetown. Nassar is up there building furniture to give to the police at Holetown. What did your Government do about it? The scientific lab is a necessary adjunct to what we are doing here if we want to improve the situation. But do you know how the DLP dealt with it? They came out each time and talked about bringing back the cat-o'-nine tails and we have the strange situation that the only solution to crime in Barbados is not to increase the efficiency of the Police Force but to talk about the cat-o'-nine tails to beat people. That is their high tech system of solving crime in Barbados. They amended the criminal law to put sentences beginning at 15 years to 25 years if you are convicted of stealing a can of beans out of their favourite store, Julie 'N. That is their high tech method of dealing with crime in Barbados.

The public out there must understand that this Government has a mammoth task ahead of it to remedy the defects which crept into the system over the past eight years under the administration of the Democratic Labour Party. We have to look, Mr. President, now that we are going to get the computers, at serious training. We need all the pieces which would go with these computers so that we produce our informations and summonses within a reasonable time, not as existed before.
12.15 p.m.

I have been practising law in this country for 32 years. It is only within the last five years that a person would get reported in Bridgetown and not get a summons until nearly two days before the six-months' period is up with a rubber stamp on it, and then it does not come up for hearing for another six months. This is what crept into the system under the last Administration. So that is their system. That is what the Democratic Labour Party did for us. So you have to look at the improvement in these factors when we are looking at it.

Let us look at the people who will work the system and make the system effective. You have to have adequate training and you must release people for overseas training and exposure so that they can bring back up-to-date methods to what we are doing. Go and check the Police Force where some of the top policemen have just had to walk out of the Force, because they were admitted to institutions in the United States doing computerised work of this nature and that Administration failed to give them the necessary leave, but they picked out a few friends of theirs to give extended leave to do things that were not related to the job which they were doing. You want me to tell you who now, Senator?

So that is what we have to look at. You must look at the specialised training which must go with the equipment. The Attorney General's Office will also have a big task, the updating of our laws as circumstances change. Laws are drafted on what is current and what the drafters may envision is likely to happen around the corner. But things change.

When the Road Traffic Act was drafted we thought we covered the Z vans and the mini-buses but then, under the DLP we had a Minister that in conjunction with a distributor put so many Suzuki vans on the road and then you had to go in and bring in a new license plate, a ZR. If you look at the Road Traffic Act and Regulations today, you have more amendments than you have pages of the substantive law. Now you have them all twisted up. I am talking about the DLP Administration. That is what I am talking about. Computers.

If you go up at MTW today, Mr. President, and you ask a question or you write to ask a question it takes 14 days to get an answer. If the DLP was computerised... You see, everyday you get up you hear the police are not doing this, the ZR vans are doing this, there is a ZR van culture; but if the DLP had regulated or negotiated all of this we would have heard from the Senator the component parts that were going together, that when the police had this they would be linked into the Licensing Authority, they would be linked into all other departments and this is what the answer would be. We haven't heard it from them, but yet they say they did it.

The police complain to you every day you walk into Court. They say, "Skipper, when you think we are going to get something now that you all are in. We were sent to the last Government and they ignored us." That is what happened.

Mr. President, the next thing that we need, we are going to have to train telephone operators in the Central Police Station for efficiency and we must not have a situation where you dial the emergency number or a number at Central Police Station and it rings for 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 times before there is an answer, because as I said, even when there is the answer and you are transferred to another department you still find that you do not get a response because of the way the previous Administration allowed the Force to run down.

I want also to say to the Minister responsible that he has to take a quick look at what is called special constables because there is a rift between the established policemen and the special constables. Many of them will say you are either a policeman or you are not a policeman, and if you look at the Police Act you will find that as soon as a man is recruited as a policeman he can only go to the Training College when he is recruited as a policeman. You don't go up there and train and then come back out and be made a policeman. You are made a policeman from the day you are recruited, before you go to college.

I think they should look at the special constables and my suggestion would be to take the best of them on recommendation from members of the Force or the Administration and have them fully integrated into the Police Force, and you can have a proper force.

Now, it seems to me that many people in our society like to talk about cases which are thrown out, cases which are lodged and not heard. Now that is what I was talking about when we talked about the delay in getting information and everything out to get a case started. We also had a temporary or acting position in the judiciary, and the general public does not seem to understand that when you have the acting position that it creates a situation which eventually has to reach a position where cases have to be thrown out.

I believe there are about four or five acting magistrates. If you have a magistrate at District A who is acting and he starts a case this week and three months from now you send him to Boarded Hall, then you move him from there and you send him down to St. Peter, it means that the case he started has to wait until it gets back to him or until it starts all over again and time elapses. There comes a time when many complainants on the spur of the moment call the police to make a complaint, a matter is started and they do not come to court for the first three or four times because the investigating officer might not be available when it comes on for trial on those occasions. By the time the prosecutor is ready with the matter that complainant has changed his or her mind and say, "Look I am not giving evidence anymore." I think that people should recognise that quite recently at the Assizes a man who had given evidence in the Magistrate's Court then told the Judges – "Blood is thicker than water. I am not giving evidence anymore." These are the things that happen as I said.

One other point I would like to address is the question of redundancy. I do not think the way the Force is structured today there can be any redundancy.
12.25 p.m.

I believe every member of the Police Force is a valuable contribution to the system of law and order and it would be foolish for any Government to make a person who has been so trained redundant. Therefore, I do not think that redundancy is a factor because when you look at it, rather than having redundancy, I think the Minister has said that he is going to increase the number of personnel in the Police Force and it has always fallen to the Barbados Labour Party to do that. In 1976 when the Barbados Labour Party came to power, there was something like 700 policemen. The Barbados Labour Party pushed them up to 1 100. I do not know how many the Dems put on but I know it went up to 1 100 and it will fall again to this administration to increase the number of law enforcement officers to a capacity which can deal with the current situation.

Over and above this, I believe when this Government gets things going and we have employment then crime in itself will drop. The crime rate rose as unemployment rose under the last administration. As unemployment drops and more jobs become available I am sure the crime rate will also decrease considerably. Therefore, Mr. President, I have great pleasure in supporting this Resolution and complimenting the Government on its ability to bring this Resolution before the Chamber as soon as it has done, and also its skill in negotiating what I call a very low interest rate on the cost of the equipment, lower than if you had to go on the open market and borrow money at 8%, 9%, 10% or 11% or if you had to take this equipment on a higher purchase charge which would have been 25% or 27%.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Miss O. P. SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I rise to support this Resolution and to say particularly that in computerising the Police Department the Attorney General and the Government are to be praised because they are doing the country a great service. Without computers the Police cannot compete adequately with crime or with police standards in the countries that we consider as models because in Barbados crime is beginning to have an international face. As the Government achieves its aim of larger computerisation of the public service, every Government Department will perform better.

Now, in 1946 the first computer came into operation. As many of us know, the renounced management consultant Professor Drucker pointed out that with the advent of that computer a new basic civilisation came into being. Senator Mascoll talked about production but Drucker mentioned that information became the principal of production and he used the term "production" and not "productivity".

What I would like to say here is that computers must not be used purely for statistics but that they must be used for planning and decision making as well. For instance, in hospitals patterns of illness change, distribution of beds could be changing and new technology comes along. There may also be certain vulnerabilities. Departments may need to keep the existing manual system for a period until they are sure that the software is providing them with the answers they put to it. In an environment like ours, there should also be copies of records in case things are lost through human error, by storm or hurricane.

Other than that, I want to say again that the Government must be lauded for its promptness, its usual foresight and decisiveness. I have very much pleasure in supporting the Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I must remember that the purpose of the establishment of the Police Force is to fight crime. Measures such as the computerisation of the Force are designed to assist in that measure. What would reoccur would be a reallocation of the personnel in the Force to crime fighting activities rather than the enormous time consuming clerical activities which they now perform.

As you are aware, Sir, the burden of removing a vagrant off the street or someone who has committed petty crime, falls more heavily on the arresting officer than on the person arrested because long after the person is arrested in Bridgetown, for example, and is back on the street, the officer whose principle activity should be the fighting of crime is tied up with all sorts of paper work.

In addition, as far as the investigative capacity which is required by our local crime truce in solving more serious crimes, their time will be more effectively utilised in actual problem solving of the crimes than in some of the laborious research work which might be required and which really should not have to be done by a person whose principal task should be the fighting or the solution of crime.

In short, Sir, the computerisation of a department such as the Police Force rather than being a manpower saving exercise, would really result in a more effective utilisation of the manpower for the purpose for which it was originally hired.

Sir, the question of the cost of the equipment which was raised is interesting. Approximately as was indicated, Bds. $1.7 million has to be looked at in relative terms. If I can, with your indulgence, Sir, choose one measure with which it could be looked at, the $1.7 million is only $300 000 more than what it would have cost the Treasury in the matter which was so wonderfully explained by the Minister of Education in the Other Place, if the excess of the award of the contract one way as opposed to the other would have been some $1.4 million so when measured on the scale of relativity the $1.7 million which was raised as a concern by Senator Laurie really would pale into insignificance.

Sir, the whole question of priorities within the Force is extremely important. The computerisation of the Force is one measure. Other things which will be required to be done would include the further upgrading of the communications system of the Force. You would recall, Sir, that the private sector had made various donations over the last few years to bring the situation to some level of normalcy. They have donated radio equipment for the vehicles. They have donated vehicles as well but the facilities in Operations Control would need to be further upgraded to bring them in line with the minimum pace of requirements for modern Police Forces.

As I understand it, Sir, our rating in that regard is not what it should be and the international ratings would change obviously with change in technology. For example, the international police organisation would expect that the Control Unit of a reasonably sized Police Force would be fully equipped with fully redundant, that is, dual tape recording system for taping all incoming calls.
12.35 p.m.

The modern forces are moving towards a more fully integrated system of emergency calling. I am sure, Sir, you probably have watched the 911 programme on television when your busy schedule permits, of course, but the move towards such full integration of the emergency system is something that the country would have to move to at some point in time.

In summary, Sir, the point that I want to make is that the treatment which is accorded to law enforcement really depends on the level of priority which is assigned to it. In the face of resource constraints it boils down to the question of prioritization. We, on this side, have and will continue to accord a high level of priority to the maintenance of law and order. It is for those reasons that I have great pleasure, Sir, in supporting this Resolution.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN THE BARBADOS NATIONAL BANK OF LAND AT JAMES STREET, BRIDGETOWN

Order No. 2 was passed.

To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the vesting in the Barbados National Bank of land at James Street, Bridgetown.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, the matter before us, Sir, asks the approval of the Honourable Senate for the vesting of land in the Barbados National Bank. The land is located at James Street in Bridgetown.

The land in question is the land which is currently used by the Bank for car parking purposes and is located directly opposite the Bank's former Headquarters on James Street. The car park is the one adjacent to the public car park which is opposite the Central Police Station.

Under Section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225 it is required that the approval of Parliament be sought for land to be sold, leased, exchanged, assigned or surrendered. This Resolution seeks Parliament's approval for the vesting of this land in the Barbados National Bank to allow it to continue as car parking activities there and to assume total and effective management of the property.

Sir, as you would be aware the bank has moved to other premises on Broad Street but the situation on Broad Street obviously does not permit parking to be available there. It is considered therefore prudent that we allow the situation to continue and for purposes of basic tidiness to vest the land in the Bank to allow them to have full control.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF LAND AT CLARKE'S ROAD, NEAR HOTHERSAL TURNING, SAINT MICHAEL, FOR HOUSING PURPOSES

Order No. 3 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the vesting in the National Housing Corporation of land at Clarke's Road, near Hothersal Turning, Saint Michael, for housing purposes.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Farley.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the approval of the Senate is being sought for the vesting of land in the National Housing Corporation. The land is located at Clarke's Road, Hothersal Turning and the land is to be used for housing purposes.

The land area in question is some 1 397.4 square metres. This land had been acquired by the Crown for the purpose which was deemed to be for the public good. We are basically moving to allow the National Housing Corporation to make use of this property for the provision of sites and services according to their plans.

Again, under this Resolution, the relevant legislation for the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225 under which the approval of Parliament must be sought is that the Government is to agree to the disposal of land to another party.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Laurie.

SENATOR C. K. LAURIE: Mr. President, I should like to get some assurance from the Government in terms of the National Housing Corporation that we look into those areas that were in agriculture and see if we can save the top soil from those areas before the lands are put into housing because we have a very limited amount of top soil and there are areas of this island that could be put back in agriculture if the top soil were replaced. Top soil is also desperately needed for covering the landfill areas. Therefore is this land just going to be bulldozed and the soil dumped? I think there should be some kind of plan arrangement by the National Housing Corporation to set an example to all people developing land that this top soil is a very precious resource which we have and it should be handled in some specific way.

I am very concerned that somebody reported to me that there is an area of land in St. Michael that is agricultural land that permission has been refused. But top soil is being trucked away every night. That is very serious. I have reported the matter to the Town and Country Planning Department who are supposed to be checking on it. But this kind of situation is very serious. I am talking about an area at Lower Estate. I should like to stress again that in any development the National Housing Corporation should plan on preserving our top soil.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Springer.

SENATOR THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON J. L. SPRINGER: Mr. President, I should just like to address a few cultural aspects of housing and land use which I think are important to us at this time.

First of all, I should like to know whether it is true that there are a large number of lots around the City and elsewhere which are believed to be Crown Lands and where there is no certainty as to the ownership of these particular sites. It was drawn to my attention that there is some uncertainty surrounding lands believed to be or supposed to be Crown Lands. I think that this question is raised from time to time as an indication that there should be some attempt to identify the extent of the Crown Lands and to have some kind of inventory of these lands. We need to know exactly what we have. I think it is time to investigate that. That is particularly interesting to me, Sir, because while we are looking at this land at Hothersal for housing, it might be possible to identify some other lots around for much needed siting of houses. For example, there are a number of people who work in town who have acquired and do acquire chattel houses from time to time and have not got lots on which to put them. I am aware of people who find lots in St. Philip or St. Andrew when in fact they have a job in town and it would not make sense to have them travelling to distances, first of all to relocate at their stage in life, and then to travel all of that way to find somewhere to put their houses. It is necessary, I think, Sir, to have land for a purpose like this that would be available from time to time to people who want to resite their houses for whatever reasons or who have just become owners of houses.
12.45 p.m.

On the question of this particular site at Hothersal, Sir, we do not have all the details, for example, what kind of housing is envisaged. I think that we need to think of house lots in terms of the culture of our country. I am referring specifically to the place of the backyard in our country, the place of the little garden plot around the house.

We have become and are fast becoming a kind of people who put people in the heights and the terraces where they grow grass rather than food. It seems to me interesting that we are not all that disturbed

about those who grow grass or cause mosquitoes and rats to breed while you cannot keep chickens in those areas.

What I am making a plea for, Sir, is that we once again look at adequate lots for siting houses where people can have their little garden plots and provide for themselves if not for others as well. We are all concerned about agriculture; yet we have been guilty of setting up housing estates in areas that do not adequately provide for agriculture then to ask ourselves why our people are no longer interested in agriculture when we have been guilty of moving them away from the agricultural scene. I hope that the area that is being acquired or is changing hands and becoming the property of the Ministry of Housing and Lands will take into consideration the fact that the people who are sited there should be allowed to set up their little garden plots as well.

Sir, if you would permit me I would just briefly expand on this tendency to misuse or not to use the land adequately, we have been guilty of building, for example, schools without adequate playing space. We have, in this City, two of the largest schools in the island with no adequate place for the children to play. I speak of the St. Leonard's Schools, after which we built the Louis Lynch Secondary School – a brand new school in our time – with no playing space at all.

So, while we are looking at land and the use of it and the siting of houses and so on, let us also consider schools and other such institutions, and always make sure that, when we provide sites for schools, we also bear agriculture in mind. We are teaching agriculture on our curriculum but not providing the land where the children can practise what it is they are being taught.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Mr. President, I rise to give support to this Resolution particularly as over the last few years the question of housing has been sadly neglected in this country and because of that we find a situation where you have many, many people living in one dwelling. Sometimes you cannot even call it a house because it is barely a dwelling. Sometimes the side-ins are less than adequate, the stars shine in at night and if you are not careful you will be in the cellar and you should not be there. I am talking about, in some instances, 10 people residing in one dwelling. So I think it is very commendable that at this time we are seeking to fulfil some of our Manifesto pledge in terms of creating adequate housing to fulfil one of nature's most basic needs.

Hinging on that of course will be the safety and security factor. If you do not have adequate housing, most certainly you cannot feel safe and secure in any environment. If that is the case then of course it leads to a lot of other unsavoury activities which have arisen and we seek to banish that.One's comfort too is of the utmost importance because if you are not comfortable in your natural habitat, how can you be comfortable or act comfortably with the society at large.

In adding on to what Senator Springer was saying, I had it right here in my notes and this is why it is important to speak early before the debate gets too heated and dense because if not you find at some stage that all of your material has been utilized and then perhaps the Press will say, well this person is only copying the next and so on and so forth. So I am making my points at this stage.

In hinging on to what Senator Springer said, we have to take into consideration and I am sure we will be doing that in terms of the structures being placed in particular in the Clarke's Road area and looking as well at incorporating adequate social development for the residents of the area. Now Clarke's Road is very familiar to me because it just happens to be St. Michael East and the area butts and bounds Tom Adams Highway, the Hothersal Turning Road, and Hothersal Turning going on further up into St. George. It is a wonderful area and Senator Laurie, I am sure there is a lot of good top soil and that will be taken into consideration I am certain. But if we do not incorporate – and as I said, I am sure we will – an area to take care of the social aspect, we could run into a lot of problems where young people and children particularly would find themselves drifting over into the highway and so on. That I know will be taken care of because I have had the privilege to see some plans, not for the Clarke's Road area but for another area within Barbados for future development and the environment has been taken into consideration very heavily – maintaining trees, creating little plots where you can do your little gardening as a shared type of situation. So I know this Government is not short-sighted when it comes to creating the sort of environment that we can all be justly proud and live and work comfortably in and therefore interact more adequately with each other.

I would just like to add that to the debate and heartily give it my support because in St. Michael East housing is particularly of the utmost importance. And as I said before too many in one unit. I would like to put in a bid at this stage too because there are so many, as Senator Springer said, who find themselves in a situation where they have to be relocated because the land that they were renting is no longer available and so on – a bid not to send them off to St. John, or St. Philip or St. Lucy but to try to keep the residents in fairly close proximity because of their work environment and also close proximity to the schools where most of the children living in this area frequent. So I put in a bid for St. Michael East, keep the people in the St. Michael area in particularly. If not in St. Michael East, in close proximity. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR Mrs. A. P. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I rise to speak on this Resolution as an extension of the Resolution to Lower Estate. This is an area which is very close to the Lower Estate area. During the last discussion, I think that I brought it to the attention of this Chamber the number of persons now residing in Lower Estate, and from time to time people refer to them as squatters. I do not call them squatters. They have been given permission by one person or another to site their houses there. I believe that now the land is for sale that these people have to find some form of accommodation or area to which they can go. I myself would like a bit more information really on what the National Housing Corporation plans to do with this land. I am not sure if we are going to make it into a housing development like the blocks we have in Wildey and the Pine or some other areas, or if it is going to be divided in such a way that people can have lots for resiting and then Government can put some houses. But I would like to make an appeal on behalf of the people of Lower Estate and Foster Lodge because there are a few houses there and the areas no longer qualify as tenantries and the houses have to be removed. The former administration promised that it would relocate them. So I am appealing to this Government to keep them within an area that is quite close to where they were before. Since this particular area is very close to Lower Estate and the Foster Lodge area, I hope the residents of these two districts would be considered for relocation.
12.55 p.m.

I support this and I recognize there is a need for housing. The only thing is that I do not want the impression to be given that these are houses which are being given away. My view is yes people need houses to rent, but I was wondering what Senator Odle meant when she talked about the light coming through and all of that. Because that is a case of maintenance and if you are short on cash for maintenance you would hardly be able to buy. That is a little consideration. But I am happy that we are positioning ourselves to provide more houses for Barbadians. A house is very close to our hearts. I hope that more of our houses will be converted to homes in such a way that we can deal with some of our social problems.

I too would like to see recreational facilities located in these new developments because our young people have to stray quite some distances sometimes and they get themselves into all kinds of problems and all kinds of sub-cultures to which they are not accustomed. I hope that the National Housing Corporation would take that into account in the planning for the development of this area and I support the Resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Odle.

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: I would just like to take the opportunity because I was asked the question "what did Senator Odle mean by the light shining through?"

Mr. PRESIDENT: On what did you rise?

SENATOR Miss J. C. ODLE: Mr. President, I am now learning. This is a fairly new role but the question was asked if I may have permission to answer. The question of the light shining through is my opinion that a lot of the funds that should have gone to the National Housing Corporation and other corporations that deal with people's comforts, needs, safety and security were used in other areas that could have waited until another appropriate time and I think of specifically Sherbourne Centre. The light shining through would be the roof breaking in.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The point of elucidation should have been made during Senator Thompson's speech. Senator Barker.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise on this occasion to add my voice to the approval of this Resolution which seeks to vest in the National Housing Corporation land at Clarke's Road for housing purposes.

Sir, under the misguided policies or lack of it of the last administration, the National Housing Corporation was more intent on middle income housing projects as they were for low income houses. Sir, I believe in this country there is an urgent and crying need for more attention to be paid on the needs of lower income people. Because the last census is showing that $^1/_3$ of our households are still without indoor plumbing is way too high a figure especially since we claim to be number one among the developing countries. That figure is way too high and the National Housing Corporation will get into low income housing in a big way, because unlike the last administration where there was the lack of foresight, this administration intends to fulfil its mandate based on our manifesto of pledges we have made. This is something that I can identify with especially when I note that the land is basically going to be used for low income housing projects of the type that we need in Barbados.

Sir, to show the last administration's lack of concern for the plight of the low income people and notice as I stated before the lack of indoor plumbing, they put a luxury tax on toilets. That is how they viewed the legitimate aspirations of our people. They put a luxury tax on toilets. Yes, you were involved in that too. You stand for the Dems and I voted against it and I will continue to. That is an indictment against any Government that they put a luxury tax on something as basic as a water toilet. But this Government intends to put the needs of low income people not on the back burner or off the stove as the last administration has done. It is going to be placed

on the front burner and it will be given active consideration. This is but the first shot.

Sir, people talk about priorities. It must be noted that the last administration was more interested in building Sherbourne and the St. Thomas School than they were concerned with the needs of the people, especially when we note the high taxes on building material meant that the price of the materials skyrocketed and put the average modern house out of the reach of most of the workers of Barbados. That will be addressed and it is continuing to preoccupy us.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, we know that there is money in the Housing Fund. But when you lay off six to eight thousand people, how can they access what funds there are for low income housing? They have no job. So how are they going to repay? By sending home so many people especially notice, Sir, that most were the low income workers, they were the ones that suffered enormously during the destruction of the economy that the other side conveniently called structural adjustment but I call it destruction. It had destroyed the working class to the extent that they were unable to fulfil one of their most basic needs which is adequate housing.

This Resolution, Sir, must attract our support. Any right thinking person would want to see the National Housing Corporation getting involved in this sort of activity. Because given the culture of Barbados, the first thing a person wants is a roof over their head.
1.05 p.m.

We know for a fact that people start with what we call a 16' x 9' and by prudent management in a short period of time a wall back is on, and before you look around twice another stone is added. That is our culture. But the price of land is prohibitive and that is why the last BLP administration introduced the sites and services programme. It would be interesting to know what happened to the sites and services programme under the last DLP administration. It was virtually destroyed. Many people came to me and said they could borrow $10 000 to put up a little house but could get no land. They wanted land to rent. They said that after they got the house up they could then probably think of owning the land, but in the immediate future all they wanted was a little piece of land and in time they would fulfil their own housing needs. What these people were trying to do was to help the State, because they were trying to help themselves in order to satisfy their own housing needs, but the last Government destroyed the sites and services programme, which must be restored to health as a matter of urgency.

As I said before, Sir, there are lots of people out there who will access to the money to put up a structure but cannot afford the price of the land, given the fact that a small house spot now would cost $20 000 or more. That is something which is being addressed and in the next year or so we will see more effort being placed on getting more lots under the sites and services programme, because it is something we take pride in. The last time we were in office that was a major plank in our housing programme, especially since we note that the revolutionary Tenantries Freehold Purchase Act gave a much needed impetus to housing in this country.

I was reading a book, Sir, written by an Englishman on housing conditions in Barbados and he mentioned the passing of that Act as one of the most significant factors which led to the improvement of the housing stock in Barbados. It is to the DLP's shame that not only did they vote against the Act when it was discussed in Parliament at that time, but when they came into power they destroyed one of the basic features of that Act. But then, as I said before, they have no interest in seeing the low income workers in this country get adequate housing. They are known, Sir, by their deeds and their deeds speak volumes.

Another point I want to mention is that Barbados has very limited land. Land is not readily available and any time we move into big housing projects we have to take land basically from agricultural purposes. It is worrying me to a large extent. There was a report some time ago that in the developed areas, in what we call the Heights and Terraces, there are a lot of land spots which are yet unsold. Land speculation is a big thing in Barbados, so a developer would get land and he says "I am going to make back my money by selling 80% of these lots." Anything above 80%, or whatever the figure is, is gravy, so to speak, so when he gets the relevant amount of lots sold he has no more great interest so what happens is that in every housing development in Barbados there is a 10 lot here or a 20 lot there unsold. The result is that the developer, instead of pushing and getting those lots sold, moves into another area, takes up more land and makes enormous profit again and in the new development leave another 20 lots or so. What we have in Barbados now is that there are hundreds of lots that are already developed, the roads and other infrastructure are there, but the developer has no interest in ensuring that these lots are sold, so the land is lost to agriculture and is basically lost to housing. It is just lying there creating a haven for mosquitoes and other vermin.

We need now, Sir, to take stock of the situation at this point in time and make sure that we make full use of all our land resources by going back into these areas and making sure that before you take land out of agriculture, the land that is already divided and developed is sold before you come for more land. That is something the Ministry of Lands should do as a matter of

urgency, because there is always going to be need for more land for housing, as the family size gets smaller and for various other reasons.

Not only that, Sir. As you drive around the country, especially in the old villages, you see a lot of vacant lots. What happens is that the owner maybe has migrated, or the children have left the area and when the old people died out the land was just left there. In some cases the land is under dispute. There are lots of reasons, but as you move from village to village we see lots here and lots there which are not really under use. So what I am saying is that as the pressure for land mounts, as the demands become greater, we need now to look and see that all of our land is being used productively. I know it is going to be a very difficult problem but it is something that we need to address, because I repeat what I have said, we have very limited land resources and we have to ensure that every piece of land in Barbados is under some productive use, whether it is for agriculture, for housing or for industry or whatever.

Aside.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I am told the number of unused lots is 18 000 and I am sure that will take a lot of years, if ever, for us to exhaust the amount of land that is available. I am suggesting that there is absolutely no need for us to take any more land out of agriculture and put into housing. Let us make sure that some of the 18 000 lots are used first.

Sir, a point was raised about Crown lands. I remember when I was in this Chamber in the last Session the point came up that Government was unaware of how much land they own and where it is. I think there is a need for the Ministry of Lands to really take stock of what Government owns, not only in terms of land but buildings and so on, because a lot has come to Government by default, so to speak, and for various other reasons. Government needs now to take stock of what they own and see how they can use what they own in a productive way. Government has a way of eyeing other people's properties without first of all checking to make sure of what they have, so that is something we probably can look at and see what use can be made of Government lands. We must be aware of the demands which are being put on our limited resources.

With those few comments, Sir, I give my wholehearted support to this Resolution, noting again that I am extremely glad that Government is seeking to fulfil the legitimate housing needs of the people.

Thank you, Mr. President.

1.15 p.m.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. President, I rise to sort of correct a misconception which has been around this country for a lot of years about a lot of unused land and what has happened. If one thing is known in Barbados to us lawyers it is that Barbadians live for one reason, to own a spot of land, and they believe they have achieved their goals. I agree with them, and the Barbados Labour Party accepted the concept. That was one of the driving forces when in the last Barbados Labour Party Administration the Tenantries Freehold Purchase Act was passed to give Barbadians a stake in their own country so that they can be proud owners of the lots on which they reside.

This question of 18 000 unused lots in Barbados was brought to our attention in the last Administration, but careful examination has shown that a lot of lots which appear to be still in the possession of the developers are really lots which have been paid for by Barbadians living overseas. One of the basic problems in land development is that under the last Administration the system of paying for services was changed. When Mr. Nicky Sealy was the Manager at the Water Authority you could go in and arrange with Mr. Sealy to pay down a certain amount of money, put in the water, then come in with the roads, you sell and you pay. Under the current system, you have to pay one-half before the Water Authority goes in and the other half within a certain time after completion.

Now we have to thank those people like Property Developers and Property Holdings etc. who brought a scheme to Barbados whereby people paid down $1000 or $2000 and spent five or seven years to pay off the balance in monthly payments. That is what has happened. A lot of these 18 000 lots are owned by people in England, the United States and Canada, Barbadians who are abroad and will always tell you, "when I come back home I will have a spot of land to build on." Unfortunately, some of those who live in England and have retired have found that their retirement handshake is in the vicinity of £30 000 to £40 000, which used to be a lot of money back in the 60s and 70s, but £30 000 or £40 000 cannot construct the sort of house that these people figure they want when they come back home. That is something we must look at.

We must not think that developers hold land to make profits, because if you go down the streets and ask the banks... If they don't pay the banks, the banks move in and sell out the lots. So developers are not holding them for that reason. Another point that we saw in the last Administration was that there are a lot of unused house lots now stretching along Bay Street, Christ Church, some in Roebuck Street etc. It was as a result of the methods of transferring land or passing land down from a parent to children. You will find a will in which a chap will say – "I give to my daughter Jane So and So a life interest in my property at Bay Street and at her death it goes to

her first child or somebody a bit further". What we found was that a life tenant in a house did not care to repair the house and keep it in a habitable condition because the thought was that whatever I do to this it will never become mine.

I had a situation where a man came out from England and his parents left nothing in the will for him, but the family got together and said, "look, use the family house until you pass away. "He came into my office making a noise and said, "what am I going to pass to my children? Why should I repair it if I cannot pass it to my children?" Those are the circumstances.

The Barbados Labour Party took action. We brought in a new Law of Property Act, and I doubt fifty percent of the people in Barbados know that, under the new property law, you can go to the reversioner, the person to whom that property will fall in the end, and say to them, "look I want that property now, let me pay out your interest and save it as it is." I doubt that 50% of the people in Barbados know that.

There are a lot of houses under that situation where it was left in a will for a life tenant and the reversionist cannot touch it until the person dies and therefore the lot remains there but the reversioner cannot go on that lot because the person to whom it was left is still alive. Those are the problems we have with the lots. What we probably need, and what you need to do in terms of the banking system, is to entreat bankers to lend money on what is life interest or leasehold land, because you cannot go to a bank in Barbados and say you have a lease of 35 years and you want $200 000 to build a house on it. No way.

Check part of the land at Sam Lord's Castle where some freehold and small portions are leased. Every time you get a conveyancing and a mortgage has to be created, my friend will tell you the dickens in hell you have to convince the bank that it is a good title. So we have to look at the banking system and let bankers understand the law and the security so that people could put to good use these lots which appear to be unused.

Let's get back to Government lands or Government not knowing what it has. Under our Administration, a certain civil servant brought this to our attention and a Government log was created and we started listing government lands. That is how we come to know that the Empire Theatre was owned by Government under a very long lease. I don't know if it was abandoned under the Administration that followed. Probably the Senator will tell me. Therefore that is why you wouldn't know what they have, but that log should still be available and could be carried out to start listing Government properties so you know what is there.

I get back now to this Resolution and the National Housing Corporation. Mr. President, I think this Senator needs to go to school to learn his politics. Under the Barbados Labour Party Administration in 1976 we looked at small income persons and housing for small income people and one of the things that came to light was, and this was pushed by the Fire Department, that we should try and get out of wooden houses. We developed the concept of housing the nation by the year 2000. We went into developing a small Portland cement plant, the one in St. Lucy.

1.25 p.m.

We found that we were having difficulty in obtaining cement when we wanted it and the cost of cement coming from Columbia used to go as high as $18, $20 and $22 a bag. We developed the cement plant to bring cement back down to a reasonable price so we could get rid of all the wooden houses. You would check in the Fire Service Report that 99% of house fires in Barbados take place in these small wooden houses and we wanted to remove them from the face of Barbados. That policy in housing the nation by the year 2000 was also enunciated by the late Dipper Barrow when he came to office in 1986. There was a destruction of the Barrow DLP and the new DLP did not understand what it was.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: No. The 5-4-3 and the structural adjustment DLP did not understand the concept of low income housing and they sold the cement plant. Look in their Development Plan where they said that the NHC would not be building houses until the year 1996 so they had no usage for a cement plant. They had no concept of acquiring land to give the NHC because NHC was not going to build any houses. Why are you now talking about us acquiring land and giving it to the NHC because this Government has always looked at the concept of various staging of houses, low income and middle class.

We went down to West Terrace and acquired all the land. We put it in the NHC and called in individual builders so that people could get houses. You paid 10% down on the land and 10% on the house. We put money in Barbados Mortgage Finance Corporation so that people could get mortgages. Under the Tenantries Freehold Purchase Act we put money in the Barbados National Bank. As long you were on a tenancy and you qualified, you went there and borrowed every cent to buy the land.

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: You destroyed the Bank. If we destroyed the Bank to house the people who lived in the tenantries and owned wooden houses I would say destroy it again. Destroy it

again to save a riot because all you are saying to me is that we should never have given those poor people who lived in tenantries, who worked their whole lives and their foreparents before them and gave their sweat and blood to the plantation owners and still lived in old wooden houses that when the moonlight comes out you could see all through the house but then you turn around and you so much wanted to keep those people so substandard that you put a levy on the toilet bowls. They must never have water toilets. They must always go in the yard in the pit hole. That is what you want for them until one day some of them get away and come down in St. James and pull you out of your house. If we have to destroy it again we should do it because we have to let everybody in Barbados understand that they have an equal chance in this society, that they can progress like anybody else and that is the problem.

Mr. President, this Resolution is only a continuation of the policy of the Barbados Labour Party from time immemorial in housing its citizens. The Barbados Labour Party was the first political party to build low income houses up in the Pine. You know what they said? They came in here and criticized the houses in the Pine. They were in office 8 years and have done nothing to them although they criticized them. We moved from low income houses in the Pine and the best houses built for public housing was in Fernihurst and the one below under Lionel Craig as Minister. Never before, Mr. President, did you ever have a situation where young civil servants, teachers, policemen were getting married and they would come to you and say "I am getting married. I want a NHC house". Under the Barbados Labour Party it happened and that is why you go into these developments now and you find all categories of people in those developments because they appreciated...

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Bolden is speaking.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: The Honourable Senator seems to have taken leave of his good senses, you know.

Mr. President, you go in Wildey. I have had the privilege of going to another West Indian country and while talking to my CPA colleagues they said, "we want to take you to see Government housing." They took me to see Government housing. I said, "Gentlemen, come to Barbados and let me show you Government housing". When they came here I took them in Wildey and asked a young lady "show these people your house". They walked in, looked around , came out and said, "wait, this is public housing or these are apartments?" I said "this is public housing." I asked the lady to bring her rent book to show them and when they saw "National Housing Corporation" they said, "well, boy, this country is more progressive than anybody could have thought of." That is what we have done.

Go down in West Terrace. You have a lot of single families...

Aside.

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Women have done you something wrong? Senator why do you not move from next to him?

Mr. President, we have a lot of single families who today own houses in places like West Terrace which could never have happened before but the point is that we have housed those persons who want to know that they can be housed. When the National Housing Corporation acquire this piece of land, I am sure under this administration it will be put to good usage.

One thing I want to say. A lot of people talk about giving each lot sufficient area around it to plant vegetable gardens. We must recognise that Barbados is a small land mass. Everybody cannot have 3, 4 or five garden beds around their house. We must eventually go up. I have seen in Taiwan where there are window boxes and people grow their vegetables and flowers and everything is the window boxes. We have to be innovative in this period of time. If we want to house everybody and if we want to keep a certain percentage of land in agriculture we must be innovative. We must make people understand that everybody cannot get what they want. Some people have to trim down their wants to their needs and we can satisfy the population generally.

I think that particularly again when I hear people say you must keep people within the area from whence they came that was, forgive me saying, the Don Blackman concept that has caused so much problems in the Ivy because when that block of flats were put up in the Ivy he said only people from the Ivy should live in there so if somebody lived in St. Philip and their house was burnt down or somebody lived somewhere and they had 5 or 6 little children and had nowhere to live, he did not want you to bring people into those houses. Government housing must have a priority to meet immediate needs of persons and even if you have to move somebody from Bridgetown to St. George, St. Philip or *vice versa* the bottom line is you must provide housing as and when it is needed. I think that is what we should look at.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 4 – TO MOVE THE PASSING OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN VIVIAN MAYERS OF LAND AT TWEEDSIDE ROAD, ST. MICHAEL

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, the approval of the Senate is being sought for the vesting of land in Vivian Mayers. This land is located at Tweedside Road, St. Michael.
1.35 p.m.

The land in question was originally compulsorily acquired in 1990 for the purpose of construction of a new Carrington's primary school. Originally, some 4 728.6 square metres of land was acquired. At that time the land was thought to be owned by Blades and Williams Limited. It was subsequently discovered however that some 319 metres of that land was in fact owned by Vivian Mayers who had in fact purchased the same from L. C. Hutchinson Investment Ltd. Miss Mayers subsequently made representation to use the land for expansion purposes.

It was also discovered on further checking that the 319 square metres of land was not vital for the construction of the school. The approval of Parliament is therefore being sought for the vesting of the land in Vivian Mayers. The result of the action by vesting in Miss Mayers would basically be the device which is used for returning the land to who in fact would be the rightful owner. For those who are interested there is a map of the property here which would indicate the land in question is the small piece which comes away from what would be a rectangular portion. The area shaded in green is the original land, the land after the vesting of the land by Miss Mayers which would be what remains. Three hundred and nineteen square metres is not material to the future construction of Carrington's primary school.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Gill.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Mr. President, Sir, I rise to lend my support to this Resolution. It would be remiss of me, Sir, if this were to go by and not make some contribution.

Aside.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: Precisely. Mr. Workman would be able to tell you about the history of that school having done my research. There is close connection between the Workman family and the Carrington Village school. Although I did not go to school at Carrington Village, we went to the one on the hill the St. Giles School, it was, I think an oversight nonetheless to have thought of erecting a new school in such an area so dense with traffic. Automatically it causes great problems. There is no adequate playing area, as far as I am concerned, for the children there. There is no adequate playing area for any of those schools in that area be it the Erdiston School or the St. Paul's School and I think that in future when plans are being gone after for erecting schools and places of such operations that one, as Senator the Venerable Arch-Deacon said, you must first of all be aware that the area for playing is high on the agenda. One has also to take into account the demographics of the area. I am against the actual setting up of a new school because of the dwindling population at that school. This is something which many schools like the old Carrington Village has suffered because of people having the number one, number two, number three choices because of people moving out, because of housing areas being set up in other areas where you would have a rise which would be the opposite to what is happening at schools such as Carrington Village and what might have happened at schools such as Roebuck Primary.

During the hot summer of campaigning, during the white heat of campaigning, Sir, it was more than noticeable the number of houses and spots which were unused. I would not over what some of the Senators have so clearly outlined and in particular Senator Bolden. But I would be of the opinion to urge those in office that some form of legislation should be brought in, a gentle form of legislation which would bring about some suasion and force or entice the owners, the foreign owners, although Barbadians they are resident overseas, to be of the heart to surrender, get into some form of decent negotiation so that people who are looking for spots to occupy and for houses to occupy would find it possible. Because not all these people qualify for NHC occupancy and not many of them are in a position where they could into what you call the middle income type of housing because of their work patterns, because of their children's schooling within the area they find it very difficult to be relocated elsewhere as Senator Odle alluded to earlier on.

Barbadians, without doubt, know the value of real estate. This cannot be said for those who live let us say in parts of Latin America, parts of Europe, *et cetera.* But Barbadians over the centuries have grown to appreciate the value of the real estate and, in quite recent times with the Landlord and Tenantries Freehold Purchase Act they have grown even more to know the importance of owning your little spot of land and, in due course, erecting a decent house. Barbadians have also been able to use their spots of land as a bargaining chip. Lots of them going into business for the first time have been able to push off by using their land, their titles, *et cetera* to be ? form of getting

ahead, their papers, it is property. They have used it repeatedly time after time to improve their status. No matter what you say it is a sophisticated level when compared with other parts of the world that we have been able to achieve.

Mr. President, Sir, I know the lady to whom this land is being vested and although the 319 square metres may seem miniscule at least in her evening days I know she would feel somewhat pleased to see that it is back in her possession. I should also like to urge that wherever possible people be compensated at the earliest date. We have heard that many a generation goes by without being compensated for the land that is compulsorily acquired. Maybe we are calling for sophisticated computer systems because as we said in the earlier debate that with the installation of the new system it will help to speed up to expedite matters in the police department, maybe, I am not sure we may just have to expedite these compensations by way of a sophisticated computer system. I would hope that what Senator Bolden said is true when we look at the numbers which were touted about, the 18 000 unoccupied lots.
1.45 p.m.

I would hope that he is true because if more and more of these spots of land are allowed to go by ...

HIS HONOUR SENATOR C. L. BOLDEN: Sir, I rise on a point of order. Is the Honourable Member saying that I have misled this Honourable Chamber? When somebody said 18 000 lots I just commented on it but for his information, if he checks with the United States Embassy there are 70 000 unregistered Barbadians in Brooklyn alone so 18 000 house lots that appear to be unused is minuscule in terms of Barbadians living abroad who hope to come back home and live on those lots.

SENATOR D. T. GILL: So, Senator Bolden, in truth and in fact you are stating then that it could be in excess of 18 000?

Mr. PRESIDENT: You address the Chair.

SENATOR D. T. GILL; I am sorry, Sir. I now understand Senator Bolden is stating that it is in excess of 18 000. Well, I am sure that he, because of his profession, is in a much better position to appreciate the numbers which are being put out as the number of spots unoccupied.

I can say that to date, because of this administration, I have seen in close proximity, an area which is allowed to go under and it has subsequently been cleaned and within a matter of weeks, Mr. President, I have seen a new house erected on that spot and it is almost like an automatic transformation in terms of the aesthetics of the area. Sir, if we look at cleaning up those spots we would have seen this in the papers as the NCC. They all go hand in glove and this would be part of the jobs. Senator Mascoll, job number one is still jobs and if we go down that track we would not only be looking at the possibility of people owning their own property but also it would generate jobs and to all intents and purposes it would be part of the solution in bringing down the unemployment.

Mr. President, Sir, I am pleased to be associated with this Resolution.

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 5 – A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GUARANTEE BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE OF THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST NECESSARY FOR THE REDEMPTION OF THE BONDS ISSUED BY THE BARBADOS AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT CO. LTD. FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, as you will recall this Chamber recently approved the passage of the Barbados Agricultural Management Company Limited (Sugar Bonds Guarantee) Act, 1994. In that Act, Sir, there is provision for the Minister, with the approval of Parliament to guarantee the repayment of the principal and interest necessary for the redemption of the bonds issued by the Barbados Agricultural Management Company.

The Barbados Agricultural Management Company has agreed to borrow some $42 600 000 by way of issue of secured debentures and this would be created upon terms of a trust deed with the CIBC Trust and Merchant Bank (Barbados) Limited and it would be for the purpose of financing its sugar industry revitalisation programme.

The bonds, Sir, will bear interest of prime plus .75% per annum and that rate, Sir, will be fixed at the date of the issue of the bonds. The approval of the Senate is being sought, Sir, for this measure and I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Honourable Senate do adjourn until December 21, 1994.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
1.55 p.m.

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